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Message Text

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70/73
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 /117 W
---------- 042536
R 051332Z SEP 74
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3593
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 11387

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y MRN 11387 VICE 11367

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, UK, SP
SUBJECT: ANGLO-SPANISH RELATIONS

1. KILLICK, UNDER SECRETARY AT FCO, HAS TOLD US THAT BRITISH AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO SPAIN, CHARLES WIGGIN, WILL VISIT GIBRALTAR BEGINNING SPETEMBER 6 FOR AN ORIENTATION TRIP PRIOR TO ASSUMING HIS POST IN MADRID LATER THIS MONTH. THE RATIONALE IS THAT A VISIT NOW WOULD AROUSE LESS SPANISH RESENTMENT THAN AFTER WIGGIN HAD TAKEN HIS POST. FURTHER, IT WAS ADJDGED IN LONDON POLITICALLY DESIRABLE FOR WIGGIN TO MAKE EARLY CONTACT WITH GIBRALTAR'S POLITICAL LEADERS AND BY IMPLICATION TO ASSURE THEM OF CONTINUITY OF BRITISH POLICY AS BRITISH AMBASSADORS TO SPAIN CHANGE.

2. WIGGIN'S VISIT WAS DISCUSSED EARLIER THIS WEEK WITH SPANISH AMBASSADOR IN LONDON FRAGA WHO DID NOT EXPRESS MUCH ENTHUSIASM BUT DID NOT DEMUR. HE SEEMED TO APPRECIATE BRITISH DOMESTIC REQUIREMENTS FOR THE VISIT.

3. KILLICK COMMENTED THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN LONDON AND
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MADRID NOW ARE ABOUT AS SATISFACTORY AS THEY COULD BE

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EXPECTED TO BE. ARIAS DOES NOT, HE SAID, SEEM TO WANT
TO HEAT THINGS UP OVER GIBRALTAR, WHICH IS ABOUT ALL THE
BRITISH COULD ASK AT THIS TIME. KILLICK EXPECTED THAT THERE
WOULD BE SOME OF THE USUAL DEBATE AND POSSIBLY A
RESOLUTION ON BRITISH CONONIAL ATTITUDES TOWARD GIRBALTAR
AT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, BUT HE SEEMED
CONFIDENT THAT THE TEMPERATURE WOULD NOT RISE TOO HIGH
IN NEW YORK. FINALLY, KILLICK MADE CLEAR THE BRITISH DO NOT
EXPECT ANY BREAKTHROUGH IN RELATIONS WITH SPAIN FOR
SOME TIME TO COME. HE GAVE NO SIGN OF AN EARLY RESUMPTION
OF OFFICAL LEVEL TALKS.
SOHM

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